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175 From a consideration of all these factors the peculiar nature of the Rumanian agrarian crisis emerges. The poorer peasant, who had been forced to go to the landowner or tenant for additional land, was in an increasingly bad bargaining position. The landowners or tenants, in responding to commercial incentives, could increase production with little cost to themselves merely by demanding more of him, since he supplied the implements and draft animals as well as the labor.²³ Clinging to his little plot of ground and doggedly refusing to become a migrant wage laborer, the poor peasant could see no possible relief to his situation except to have more land. On the other hand, the richer peasant, whose land was sufficient to produce a surplus, likewise found himself restricted by the relative monopoly in land, the high rents, and the speculation of the large tenants: the system was an obstacle to the further improvement of his position.²⁴

In general, then, the economic background of the 1907 revolt lay not in peasant poverty alone but in the protracted dislocating effect of commerce upon a previously "natural economy" and a society involved in the ambiguities of neoserfdom. This dislocation has occurred in many forms throughout the globe where modern industry and commerce have impinged upon traditional social and economic patterns. The particular form it took in Rumania, increasing agrarian tension in the midst of a flourishing foreign commerce in cereals, was a product not only of economic and demographic factors but of Rumania's particular social structure, which was dominated by a boyar oligarchy.

Socially and economically Rumania resembled tsarist Russia in several ways. As Dobrogeanu-Gherea observed: "We are the only country in Europe, with the exception of Russia, which has the sad privilege of peasant revolts—neither the Western countries superior to us in culture, nor those of the East, such as Serbia and Bulgaria, which are inferior to us, have them."²⁵ In both countries the history

the prevalence of unprogressive latifundary cultivation, large property was making technical advances and was paving the way toward more scientific farming. Advocates of peasant farming have replied that the large owners had kept the best land to themselves and that the peasants were unable to give adequate attention to their own fields. As one peasant is reported to have said: "Do you think this beautiful maize is mine? It belongs to the Jewish tenant. I haven't even hoed my own once yet, his twice. He didn't allot us the land till late." Creangă, *op. cit.*, I, 14.

23. This curious fact, that under the prevailing agrarian relations prosperity seemed to sharpen social tensions, may explain why the 1907 revolt should have followed the excellent 1906 harvest.

24. This grievance of the richer peasants may serve to explain why the minor uprising of 1888 had been most violent in the district of Ialomîța, a sparsely populated region having a comparatively prosperous peasantry, but in which an exceptionally high percentage of the land (69 per cent) was in the hands of large proprietors, who leased out more than 70 per cent of their estates.

25. Dobrogeanu-Gherea, *op. cit.*, p. 177.

CHAPTER XI

463 industrial labour. One-third of all workers engaged in industry are independent artisans, on whom the community is dependent for its services, but who do not play any important part in war production. In certain of the larger armament works German controllers have effected a considerable degree of rationalisation.

3. Mining

316 There is a shortage of miners; Russian prisoners of war have been employed in mining during 1942. Many miners were reported to have been included in the territory transferred to Hungary.

4. Armament Works

719 There is a general shortage of labour in metal and engineering factories, particularly of skilled labour. A 12-hour day was legalised at the beginning of 1942, but it is doubtful if in fact a 12-hour day is ever worked.

5. Timber

313 There is a shortage of labour, both for lumbering and for timber manufacture.

6. Textiles and Clothing

464 The total number of workers in these industries has probably fallen considerably, due to reduction of available raw materials. The delivery of supplies to individual mills seems to be somewhat erratic, and there is evidence of considerable part-time work, for instance in a survey of some 43 factories in December, 1942, 11 were working full time, 21 on a reduced scale, and 11 at a very reduced scale.

7. Building

499 The extent of fortification building and general road and rail construction in Rumania is unknown, but in the second half of 1942 there was evidence of a scarcity of general labour for such projects, and of Russian prisoners of war working on rail construction.

438 In the other branches of occupation, transport services, etc., there is no evidence of labour shortage, apart from doctors, many of whom have been mobilised for the army.

D. CONTROL OF LABOUR

1. The Youth Labour Service

466 A youth labour service founded on the German model was established in March 1941. The leaders were trained in Germany, but it was only in April 1942 that the labour camps began to function. Youths are called up in their 19th-20th year, and the period of service lasts 7 months.

(See Part II, Chapter V.B. for further details.)

2. Civil Mobilisation

466 A general civil mobilisation decree was passed in May 1941 by which (1) employment cards were introduced; (2) men and women aged 20-57 were liable to compulsory employment if not employed.

Two subsequent decrees were published in March and May 1943, one for the reorganisation of agriculture, forestry and fishing, and the second for the reorganisation of industry. Each of these decrees gave full powers to the appropriate authorities for the mobilisation and transfer of labour.

In addition to the general labour decrees which have so far had little influence on the labour situation, there have been regional decrees applying to individual localities, e.g. in Bessarabia, in February 1942, all the inhabitants aged 12-70 were called upon for compulsory agricultural labour unless already employed.

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659 by reason of them outrage and blows and threats and imprisonment
738 and, it may be, destitution. These things truly mean glorifying the Lord
733 Jesus. They will prove that we desire to insure for ourselves, even in
this day of passing suffering, an eternal meed of renown which will
be beyond weight or measure.

[697] The men who signed this Letter all have witnessed to the
●466 faith they thus professed. And in their company stand devoid
of eloquence but not of holiness and fidelity, the many, many
thousands, chosen from amidst the humble and the poor, who
have suffered persecution and enslavement in Vhalitza or in
the region between the Danube and the Black Sea. In order
that we may understand their ordeal, let me quote from eye-
witness accounts of the camps built to house those who toil at
digging a canal in the Dobrouja:

Approximately 30,000 prisoners are stationed there. The majority
of them are intellectuals. They are digging a canal between the Danube
and the Black Sea, or are building roads, bridges, and so forth. Prac-
tically all the work is done by hand in the same manner and with the
same methods as those which were employed for the erection of the
Egyptian pyramids. The food is very poor. As a rule, the daily menu
consists of corn meal with a soup made of onions or beans. The sani-
tary conditions are indescribable, and for this reason the death toll is
extremely high. Prisoners work more than twelve hours a day. Some
of them were sentenced by the courts. Others were not. But this makes
no difference, for even those who did receive sentences are not released
when their terms are over.

000 The Uniate Churches are not among the great religious bodies
of the world. But we might well pause in reverence while pass-
ing their temples of worship to commemorate those who in far-
off countries have so nobly and sacrificially clung to their faith.
Such a tribute would by no means preclude one from bearing
in mind that others, too, have felt the crushing weight of Ru-